

The Army's Life Cycle Management Initiative

On Aug. 2, 2004, Army Acquisition Executive (AAE)/Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT) Claude M. Bolton Jr. and U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) Commanding General Paul J. Kern signed a historic Memorandum of Agreement formally establishing the Army's Life Cycle Management (LCM) initiative. The initiative's objective was to create a synergy that would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Army's Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (AL&T) Workforce in delivering better products and capabilities to our Soldiers faster, while also minimizing total life-cycle cost across an entire grouping of systems.

The LCM initiative's intent was to integrate significant elements of AL&T leadership responsibilities and authority to enable a closer working relationship between AMC and the program executive offices (PEOs). Since its inception, the LCM initiative has provided an integrated, holistic approach to product development and system support across the Army. This edition of *Army AL&T Magazine* will take you inside the Army's Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMCs) and provide you a unique "top-line" perspective from the AAE's and LCMC commanders' points of view.

Four LCMCs have been established to align AMC's systems-oriented major subordinate commands with the PEOs to create the synergy that meets the overall LCM goals. The

LCMC concept of operations was created to better manage the life cycle of equipment — by commodity — to create greater effectiveness for our Soldiers, while also achieving greater efficiencies within major enterprise and organizational level processes. Through continued collaboration, each LCMC aligns its resources to support the value produced for combatant commanders and their Soldiers.

As part of the LCM initiative, each LCMC has implemented Lean/Six Sigma processes to prevent quality deficiencies and product defects caused by a lack of resources. As the LCM initiative becomes more fully integrated at the enterprise level, the LCMC commanders will be able to measure quantitative and qualitative results. Future efforts will focus on process integration that will help the Army realize greater efficiencies, improved quality, decreased cycle time and reduced cost. What this means for our Soldiers is faster fielding of equipment, systems and services that address operational needs and real-world requirements now. Ultimately, the LCM initiative's results will produce better-equipped, more lethal Soldiers who are more survivable and sustainable regardless of where the mission or operational contingency takes them.

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